**Bristlecone Pines**

**Long Living Trees**

Trees can live for a very long time. One pine tree in Utah lived to the age of 5,000 years. That is very old. Just think of it! That tree was on Earth before the first airplane took to the sky. It was there before the first car hit the road. It was there long before the United States was a country!

**The Oldest Trees**

The tree that lived to be 5,000 years old was a special kind of pine tree. It was a bristlecone pine. Some of the oldest trees in the world are bristlecone pines. These trees are not as tall as giant redwood trees. They are not as beautiful as redwoods. They are older than redwood trees. Some very old bristlecone pines can be found in the White Mountains of California. These trees are more than 4,500 years old.

**The Age of a Tree**

How do we know how old a tree is? To know the age of a tree, we have to count its rings. The rings go around the center of the tree trunk.

We see them if a tree has fallen. We can see them if a tree is cut down. Every year, a tree makes a new round ring as it grows. Some rings are big. Some rings are small. But each ring equals one year. The rings are caused by changes in growth during the year. In places where the seasons are very different, it is easier to count the rings. If summer is very hot, and winter is very cold, the rings show up more.

**Slow Growing Trees**

Bristlecone pines grow slowly. Why is that? These pines live high up on mountains. In the winter, it is very cold there. The snow piles up to three feet deep. The winds race through the branches at 200 miles per hour. In this kind of climate, plants grow slowly.

**Hardy Trees**

One reason bristlecone pines live a long time is that forest fires don’t kill them. There is little wood or brush high on mountaintops. This means few fires. These pines also live a long time because insects don’t kill them. They have a hard surface. It keeps out insects. Also, it is hard for people to get to these trees. They leave them alone. They don’t cut them down.

1. Why did the author include the information about the 5,000 year old bristlecone pine tree?

1. to show how tall bristle cone pines can grow
2. to explain how slowly bristlecone pines grow
3. to compare bristlecone pines to redwood trees
4. to demonstrate how long bristlecone pines can live
5. Why does the author include the information about snow piles and strong winds?
6. to tell why the bristlecone pine trees grow slowly
7. to prove why people should not climb bristlecone pine trees
8. to suggest bristlecone pine trees are prettier than redwoods
9. to explain how the bristlecone pine trees have managed grow so tall
10. What is the MOST LIKELY reason the author wrote this article?
11. to tell the differences between bristlecone and redwood pine trees
12. to provide reasons why people should conserve pine trees
13. to give information about bristlecone pine trees
14. to list examples of different types of trees
15. With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?
16. Bristlecone pine trees are small.
17. Bristlecone pine trees are amazing.
18. Bristlecone pine trees are homes for many insects.
19. Bristlecone pine trees are perfect for building houses.
20. Read this sentence from the passage.

**Every year, a tree makes a new round ring as it grows.**

Why does the author include this information about bristlecone pine trees?

1. to explain why old trees easily fall over
2. to tell how people measure the size of a tree
3. to describe why cold weather is bad for trees
4. to identify how people are able to know the age of trees
5. Why did the author include the description of the redwood trees?
6. to provide an example of where insects live
7. to describe the location where redwoods grow
8. to compare redwoods to bristlecone pine trees
9. to demonstrate redwoods can be older than bristlecones
10. Which sentence from the article BEST supports the main idea?
11. The snow piles up to three feet deep.
12. These trees are not as tall as giant redwoods.
13. Some of the oldest trees in the world are bristlecone pines.
14. That tree was on Earth before the first airplane took to the sky.
15. Why is it hard for people to cut down bristlecone pine trees?
16. Insects destroy many pines.
17. The surface of the pines is too hard.
18. Many bristlecone pines die in forest fires.
19. The pines grow high up in the mountains.
20. Which pair are words from the article have almost the SAME meaning?
21. tall, giant
22. round, deep
23. older, growth
24. winter, summer
25. Under which heading would you find why bristlecone pines live so long?
26. The Oldest Trees
27. The Age of a Tree
28. Slow Growing Trees
29. Hardy Trees

Answer Key

1. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
2. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
3. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer is B, DOK 3
5. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
6. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2
8. Correct Answer is D, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
10. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2